



Dog Meet & Greet Checklist:

Specialist Handover Protocol



For the Adopting Family

- ✓ **Arrive Silently:** Use a text message, do not ring the doorbell.
- ✓ **Greet the host first:** Sit down and converse calmly.
- ✓ **Avert Your Gaze:** Allow the companion to observe you without pressure.
- ✓ **Respect the Scent Bubble:** Let the companion initiate all physical contact.
- ✓ **Offer Treats Correctly:** Use a flat palm, only when the owner advises.
- ✓ **Practice Stillness:** Avoid sudden movements or leaning over the companion.
- ✓ **Read the Room:** Look for soft eyes, a loose body, and neutral tail.
- ✓ **Conduct the Interview:** Ask about routine, diet, fears, and personality.
- ✓ **Come Prepared:** Bring a secure harness and lead for the journey home.
- ✓ **Stay Present:** Put your phone away and focus on the dog's signals.



For the Rehoming Family

- ✓ **Manage the Space:** Use a loose lead for subtle control indoors.
- ✓ **Neutralise the Environment:** Remove all toys, bones and food bowls.
- ✓ **Provide Neutral Resources:** Have a fresh water bowl in a shared space.
- ✓ **Anchor the Energy:** Greet guests warmly and offer a beverage (The Tea Strategy).
- ✓ **Facilitate the Bond:** Provide high-value treats for the guests to offer.
- ✓ **Honour a Retreat:** If the companion needs space, allow it without fuss.
- ✓ **Practice Full Transparency:** Disclose all habits, quirks, and challenges.
- ✓ **Prepare the Transition Bag:** Have the vet card, food, and a comfort item ready.
- ✓ **Trust the Process:** Allow the adopting family to take the lead on interaction.
- ✓ **Execute a Swift Handover:** Once decided, make the transition clean and brief.



The SDA Standard

- **The Companion's Choice:** This meeting is on the dog's terms. Never force interaction.
- **The Direct Transition:** A same-day handover is the kindest path, preventing anxiety.
- **Silence is Golden:** Human chatter should be low and calm. Let the dogs communicate.